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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENTS

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of: Robert J. DiStasio, et al.

Serial No.: 10/015,408

Filed: December 12, 2001

For: Removal Tool for Locking Nut, Bolt and Clip Systems and Assemblies

TRANSMITTAL AND CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

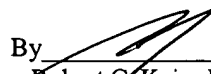
Sir:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the below listed documents are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Address," Mailing Label No. EV 092422254 under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on March 19, 2004 and are addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

- ☒ Terminal Disclaimer (2 pgs.)
- ☒ Petition to Revive Abandoned Patent Application (3 pgs.)
- ☒ Statement in Support of Petition to Revive Abandoned Patent Application (2 pgs.)
- ☒ Please charge Deposit Account No. 03-1231 in the amount of \$720.00
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Respectfully submitted,

By   
~~Ellen Kotler~~  
CHANAY J. PIERRE

By   
Robert C. Kain, Jr.  
Reg. No. 30,648  
FLEIT, KAIN, GIBBONS, GUTMAN, BONGINI & BIANCO, P.L.  
750 S.E. Third Avenue, Suite 100  
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33316-1153  
Telephone: (954) 768-9002  
Facsimile: (954) 768-0158



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Paper No. 16

In re Application of  
Robert J. DiStasio *et al*  
Application No. 10/015,408  
Filed: December 12, 2001  
Attorney Docket No. 6177-16

DECISION ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition filed by facsimile transmission on February 12, 2004 by which petitioners request withdrawal of the holding that this application stands abandoned for failure to file a timely and proper reply to the Office letter dated January 31, 2003. The petition is being considered pursuant to 37 CFR 1.181, and no fee is required.

The petition is dismissed.


A review of the record shows that following a requirement promulgated on October 23, 2002 by which petitioners were required to elect a single claimed species of the disclosed invention for prosecution, petitioners filed numerous replies which were held to be informal and/or nonresponsive. Ultimately, this application was held to have become abandoned for failure to reply to the letter of January 31, 2003 holding that the election filed by petitioners on December 20, 2002 was informal and/or nonresponsive.

Petitioners allege that this application is not abandoned because a reply to the letter dated January 31, 2003 was in fact filed on February 7, 2003. Petitioners have established that a reply was timely filed by furnishing a copy of the reply having a 37 CFR 1.8(a) certificate of transmission affixed thereto. See 37 CFR 1.8(b).

However, the Primary Examiner reports that the February 7, 2003 reply was not a *bona fide* attempt to reply to the outstanding Office letter pursuant to 37 CFR 1.111 1.143 and 1.146, because it simply did not make an election consonant with the election requirement dated October 23, 2002. As the response was not considered to be a *bona fide* response, petitioners would have had to file a proper response and secure an extension of time pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) running from the January 31, 2003 date. Obviously, that is no longer possible. See 35 USC § 133.

The application is being returned to storage as an abandoned filed pending further action by petitioners.

PETITION DISMISSED.

  
E. Rollins-Cross, Director  
Technology Center 3700

Fleit, Kain, Gibbons, Gutman & Bongini, P.L.  
750 S.E. Third Avenue  
Suite 100  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316-1153

**UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE**  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**REQUEST FOR PATENT FEE REFUND**

1 Date of Request: 10/10/04

2 Serial/Patent # 10015408

3 Please refund the following fee(s):

4 PAPER  
NUMBER

5 DATE  
FILED

6 AMOUNT

Filing

Amendment

Extension of Time

Notice of Appeal/Appeal

Petition

Issue

✓ Cert of Correction/Terminal Disc.

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18

3/19/04

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✓ Treasury Check

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9 03--1231

10 REASON:

Overpayment

✓ Duplicate Payment

✓ No Fee Due (Explanation):

TD not required.

11 REFUND REQUESTED BY:

TYPED/PRINTED NAME: Liana Chase

TITLE: Paralegal

SIGNATURE: [Signature]

PHONE: 301-0482

OFFICE: Petition

\*\*\*\*\*  
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DATE: 6/14/04

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